

CONTROLLER STEVE WESTLY

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

300 Capitol Mall
Sacramento, CA 95814
916.445.3028
www.controller.ca.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
November 21, 2003

**CONTACT: STEVEN FISHER OR
STACEY RAGLAND**
916-445-2636

Westly Praises Blockage of Energy Bill

**Statement of Steve Westly, California State Controller
November 21, 2003**

“We need a sound energy policy that meets our nation’s and state’s resource needs while protecting our environment and the future of every Californian. The Energy Bill failed to strike that balance and I’m pleased it was blocked by the Senate today.

Special interests are raiding California’s future. As written, the Energy Bill would threaten our coastline and shift a significant portion of oil and gas royalties away from California schools to oil companies. We can’t trade education and our coastline for oil company profits.

Current law requires royalties from oil and gas production on public lands in California to support public schools. In fiscal year 2001, California public schools and counties received more than \$28 million from oil, gas and geothermal royalties.

The Energy Bill also threatens California’s coastline, giving the Department of Interior authority to grant permits to develop energy resources anywhere on the outer continental shelf. Our coastlines are California’s gateway to the world. I will fight to protect our coastlines against any threat.

We can have a sound energy policy and economic growth without choosing between children and coastlines or profits for oil companies. I hope the House and Senate come together and propose more sensible energy legislation.”

###